

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 02691 291643Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 IO-13 ACDA-07

/094 W

-----301154Z 054970 /44

R 291501Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3756

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 2691

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR ET SU

SUBJ: SUDANESE CHARGE ON ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2445

SUMMARY: SUDANESE CHARGE MIRGHANI TOLD EMBASSY HE SEES CLOSURE OF ASMARA CONSULATES AS DECK-CLEARING ACTION PRIOR TO EPMG INTENSIFICATION OF MILITARY OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN ETHIOPIA. HE DISCOUNTED LIKELIHOOD OF GOS STEPS IN RETALIATION FOR CLOSURE, BUT PREDICTED FURTHER EPMG MOVES TO REDUCE STAFFS OF CERTAIN WESTERN AND ARAB EMBASSIES. CURRENT MOVEMENT OF MILITIA TOWARDS GONDAR PRESAGED ATTEMPTS TO PUSH EDU OUT OF METEMMA AND OTHER BORDER TOWNS, BUT OPERATIONS IN TIGRE AND ERITREA ALSO TO BE STEPPED UP. MIRGHANI SAW EPMG DIALOGUE WITH AFARS AS FIRST CONCRETE EVIDENCE OF ERITREAN RECOGNITION THAT WAR IN ERITREA COULD NOT BE WON, AND THAT INDEPENDENT RUMP ERITREA MINUS SOUTHERN RED SEA COAST AND ASSAB MIGHT BE FALLBACK POSITION IN ORDER TO FREE ARMY TO SECURE EPMG CONTROL OF REST OF COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 02691 291643Z

1. SUDANESE CHARGE MIRGHANI DISCUSSED ETHIO-SUDANESE RELATIONS AND MILITARY OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA WITH POL COUNS APRIL 28. MOFA HAD CALLED HIM IN PREVIOUS DAY TO ASSURE GOS THAT CONSULATE CLOSURE ACTION IN ASMARA WAS ACROSS-THE-BOARD DECISION AND SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS UNFRIENDLY ACT DIRECTED AGAINST

SUDAN. HE INTERPRETED THIS AS EPMG ATTEMPT TO PRECLUDE. RETALIATORY CLOSURE OF ETHIOPAIN CONSULATE IN KASSALA. HE OPINED THAT, SINCE GOS ANXIOUS TO KEEP OPEN ITS GAMBELA CONSULATE IN SOUTHWESTERN ETHIOPIA, CLOSURE OF KASSALA WAS UNLIKELY. ON OTHER HAND, MIRGHANI ANTICIPATED THAT EPMG, WITH SOVIET PROMPTING, WOULD MOVE SOON TO REDUCE SHARPLY SIZE OF HIS EMBASSY AND THOSE OF US, EGYPT, UNITED KINGDOM, AND FRANCE.

2. SPECULATING ON REASONS FOR ASMARA CONSULATE CLOSURES, MIRGHANI FORESAW WHAT HE TERMED ALL-OUT ETHIOPIAN EFFORT TO REGAIN MILITARY INITIATIVE ON ALL FRONTS IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA AND ERTREA. PRESENCE OF FOREIGN OFFICIALS OR OVSERVERS IN REGION WAS NOT DESIRED FOR REASONS BOTH OF SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS AND OF INTELLIGENCE. HE EXPECTED ALL PRIVATE FOREIGN CITIZENS TO BE REMOVED FROM ERITREA SHORTLY.

3. MIRGHANI DID NOT EXPECT EPMG MILITARY ACTION TO HAVE MORE THAN LIMITED SUCCESS, AND PROBABLY NONE AT ALL IN ERITREA GIVEN POOR MORALE OF SECOND DIVISION, ALTHOUGH HE CONCEDED THAT EDU IS PROBABLY TOO WEAK TO PREVENT RECAPTURE OF METEMMA. ACCORDING TO HIM, LARGE NUMBERS OF MILITIA FORCES AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING TANKS AND APC'S , WERE SEEN MOVING OUT OF ADDIS AREA TOWARDS GONDAR LAST WEEK-END, WHICH EMBASSY HAS CONFIRMED, TOGETHER WITH SIMILAR MOVEMENT ALONG ROAD TO MEKELE. MORE WERE BEING MOBILIZED DAILY. GONDAR WAS TO SERVE AS CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 02691 291643Z

PRINCIPAL STAGING AREA FOR ALL MILITARY OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA. AT OUTSET, MAJOR THRUST OF OFFENSIVE WOULD BE DIRECTED AGAINST EDU, SINCE IT WOULD BE EASIER FOR EPMG TO AROUSE CITIZEN MILITIA FORCES AGAINST RIGHTIST SUPPORTERS OF OLD REGINE THAN AGAINST OTHER LOCAL SEPARATIST OR LEFTIST ELEMENTS, AS OPERATION RAZA HAD DEMONSTRATED ONLY TOO CLEARLY LAST YEAR.

4. MIRGHANI WAS INTRIGUED BY RECENT EPMG DISCUSSIONS WITH AFAR REPRESENTATIVES, POINTING TO FOR-MATION OF AFAR ADMINISTRATIVE REGION (ADDIS ABABA 2362). HE SAW THIS AS SIGN THAT EPMG WAS BEGINNING TO COME AROUND TO CONCLUSION THAT WAR IN

ERITREA COULD NOT BE WON, AND WAS PREVENTING SUCCESSFUL MILITARY ACTIONS ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY, IF SO, IN EVENT FORTHCOMING MILITARY OFFENSIVE DID NOT PROVE SUCCESSFUL, EPMG MIGHT BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH ELF-PLF ON BASIS OF POSSIBLE INDEPENDENCE FOR RUMP

STATE OF ERITREA MINUS SOUTHERN PANHANDLE AND PORT OF  
ASSAB, AS MEANS OF GAINING RESPITE ON ONE MAJOR  
FRONT IN ORDER TO HAVE GREATER CAPABILITY TO REGAIN  
AUTHORITY OVER REST OF COUNTRY. SPEAKING PERSONALLY,  
MIRGHANI THOUGHT ERITREAN INSURGENTS, HAVING INDEPENDENCE  
OF ALL OF ERITREA AS LONG RANGE GOAL, WOULD  
JUMP AT OFFER OF THIS KIND, ON RATIONALE THAT ONCE  
THEY HAD ESTABLISHED FULL CONTROL IN ASMARA, THERE  
WOULD BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO MOVE TO TAKE OVER REST  
OF ERITREAN COAST.

5. MIRGHANI SAID GOS WAS NO LONGER AS CONCERNED AS IN  
JANUARY OVER ETHIO-LIBYAN PLOTTING AGAINST SUDAN,  
ALTHOUGH LIBYAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO EPMG WAS CON-  
TINUING. LIKEWISE, HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE THAT UP-  
COMING EPMG MILITARY MOVES IN GONDAR AREA CONSTITUTED  
SERIOUS THREAT THAT WAR WOULD SPILL OVER INTO SUDAN.  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 ADDIS 02691 291643Z

TIENKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS, MILITARY PLANS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, CONSULATE CLOSING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 29-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977ADDIS02691  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770152-0018  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t1977047/aaaaaezm.tel  
**Line Count:** 140  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** d7b92fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 ADDIS ABABA 2445  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 01-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2842487  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SUDANESE CHARGE ON ETHIOPIAN DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** PINT, PFOR, MOPS, ET, SU  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/d7b92fa7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009